

Remarks

Reconsideration of this Application is respectfully requested.

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 71-265 are pending in the application, with 71, 108, 147, 183, 215, and 241 as the independent claims. Claims 40-70 have been cancelled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter therein. New claims 71-265 have been added. It is believed that these changes introduce no new matter, and their entry is respectfully requested.

The specification has been amended to incorporate text from priority Application No. 08/103,396, which was incorporated by reference into the present application. Support for the amendment may be found at page 23, line 15 of Appl. No. 08/103,396, and page 1, lines 20 and 29 of the present specification.

Support for the new claims can be found throughout the specification. For the Examiner's convenience, **Table 1** (attached) sets out examples of locations where support for the new claims can be found in the present application and one of the priority applications. (Applicants will provide examples of locations where support may be found in priority Appl. No. 08/027,146, at a later time if the Examiner so wishes.)

Interview

Applicants thank Examiners Schwadron and DiBrino for the courteous and helpful interview extended to Bob Chesnut, Alex Alessandro, and Grace Doh, all of Epimmune, and Applicants' representatives Eric Steffe and Helene Carlson on January 10, 2002.

As discussed during the interview, Applicants have organized the independent claims to include peptides having the same priority dates, to aid in examination. Thus, Applicants request examination of a reasonable number of peptides, notwithstanding the fact that they are recited in several independent claims. Applicants also provide in **Table 2** (attached), a

list of each peptide recited in the independent claims, the location in and identity of the HIV antigen where the peptide is found, and the filing date and serial number of the application in which the peptide was first disclosed by Applicants.

Applicants also provide herewith information (attached) obtained from searches performed for the claimed peptides, for the convenience of the Examiner. The SEQ ID NO for the peptide that was the subject of the search is indicated in the upper right-hand corner of the first page of each printout.

Applicants reserve the right to establish the patentability of the claimed invention over any of the information provided herewith, and/or to prove that this information may not be prior art, and/or to prove that this information may not be enabling for the teachings purportedly offered. This information should not be construed as a representation that information more material to the examination of the present patent application does not exist, and Applicants request that the Examiner perform an independent search of the claimed subject matter.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Version with markings to show changes made

In the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 12, line 13 with the following paragraph:

The term "peptide" is used interchangeably with "oligopeptide" in the present specification to designate a series of residues, typically L-amino acids, connected one to the other, typically by peptide bonds between the α -amino and carboxyl groups of adjacent amino acids. The preferred CTL-inducing peptides of the invention are 15 residues or less in length or 13 residues or less in length and usually consist of between about 8 and about 11 residues, preferably 9 or 10 residues. The preferred HTL-inducing oligopeptides are less than about 50 residues in length and usually consist of between about 6 and about 30 residues, more usually between about 12 and 25, and often between about 15 and 20 residues.

In the Claims:

Claims 40-70 have been cancelled.

Claims 71-265 have been added.